

Message Text

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ACTION MCE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SOE-02 CIAE-00 SP-02 PM-05
INR-10 NSAE-00 DOE-15 DODE-00 L-03 /050 W
-----061471 201437Z /45

P 201424Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5572
INFO AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY ROME
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 05461

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, BE
SUBJECT: NDPC SECURITY SURVEYS

REF: STATE 68051

1. DESPITE THE ABSENCE OF A SPECIFIC U.S.-BELGIAN AGREEMENT PROVIDING THE BASIS FOR AN NDPC SECURITY SURVEY WE AGAIN REQUESTED BELGIAN COOPERATION FOR SUCH A SURVEY. IN DOING SO WE STRESSED OUR COMMON INTEREST IN PROTECTING CLASSIFIED MILITARY INFORMATION IN CO-PRODUCTION PROJECTS (CITING THE F-16 AND THE AIM-9L) AND SAID THAT SUCH SURVEYS COULD BE RECIPROCAL (CITING THE MAG 58). WE DID NOT REPEAT NOT SAY THAT THE ABSENCE OF THIS SURVEY COULD HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON CO-PRODUCTION PROJECTS AS THIS WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY HAVE PROVOKED A NEGATIVE BELGIAN REPLY AND A DETERMINATION ON THEIR PART TO TEST OUR WARNING.

2. AFTER A PROLONGED CONVERSATION, THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AGREED TO PERMIT "DISCUSSIONS" BETWEEN U.S. AND BELGIAN
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OFFICERS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SECURITY OF CLASSIFIED MILITARY INFORMATION (CMI). THESE DISCUSSIONS WILL PERMIT THE U.S. SIDE TO LOOK INTO THE MODALITIES OF BELGIAN STORAGE OF CMI, INCLUDING ON SITE VISITS TO BELGIAN INDUSTRIES INVOLVED IN CO-PRODUCTION ARRANGEMENTS. SUCH DISCUSSIONS WILL BE PERMITTED BECAUSE OF A COMMON INTEREST IN THE SECURITY OF CMI, BUT WILL IN NO WAY BE TREATED

AS OR MENTIONED TO ANYONE AS AN "INSPECTION" OR AS A RIGHT THE USG CAN INVOKE. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS AGREED TO CONTACT APPROPRIATE BELGIAN OFFICIALS TO SET UP THE PROPOSED VISIT WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK SET FORTH ABOVE.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE CONFIRM DATES THAT U.S. TEAM WILL BE IN BELGIUM FOR SUCH DISCUSSIONS AND VISITS. OUR LAST INFORMATION (STATE 43835) INDICATED APRIL 17-22. PLEASE NOTIFY US OF THE NAMES AND TITLES OF TEAM MEMBERS.

4. COMMENT: WE WILL WANT TO BRIEF U.S. TEAM FULLY PRIOR TO ITS FIRST CONTACT WITH BELGIANS IN ORDER TO REVIEW BELGIAN SENSITIVITIES IN DETAIL. PURPOSE OF TEAM'S VISIT CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK WORKED OUT, BUT ANY INDICATION OF A U.S. RIGHT TO PERFORM AN INSPECTION IN THE ABSENCE OF AN AGREEMENT, OR ANY USE OF VEILED WARNINGS ON THE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES TO BELGIUM SHOULD IT NOT COOPERATE, WOULD MOST LIKELY LEAD TO AN IMMEDIATE BREAKDOWN OF THE DISCUSSIONS AND SERVE TO POISON OTHER, AND FAR MORE IMPORTANT, U.S.-BELGIAN TALKS UNDERWAY ON POLITICO-MILITARY TOPICS. CHAMBERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECURITY, SURVEYS, CLASSIFIED INFORMATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BRUSSE05461
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780122-0751
Format: TEL
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780349/aaaaboyq.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: bb56f2c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION MCE
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 68051
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3273026
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NDPC SECURITY SURVEYS
TAGS: MILI, BE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bb56f2c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014